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ABSTRACT

A series of activities designed to introduce young children to the practice of community planning are contained in this document. Drawings and illustrations appear throughout. Many of the activities invite the young reader to draw or to color the illustrations. (DB)

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MY PLANNING ACTIVITY BOOK

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A RAINBOW OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES INTRODUCING KIDS TO THE PLANNING PROFESSION

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by DINEENE O'CONNOR

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MY PLANNING ACTIVITY BOOK

A RAINBOW OF PLANNING ACTIVITIES INTRODUCING KIDS TO THE PLANNING PROFESSION

by DINEENE O'CONNOR

Mrs. Morse's first grade class studied a unit on communities. They wanted to know about the many things that must be part of a community to make it work.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
Communities have:
fire stations
Police stations
Libraries
Schools
3

Mrs. Morse called the Town Planning Office. She asked a Community Planner to come to her class. The Community Planner explained that communities need many kinds of people, buildings, activities, and places to make a community serve all the people who live in the community. She explained the many things that Planners think about and study when they plan communities.

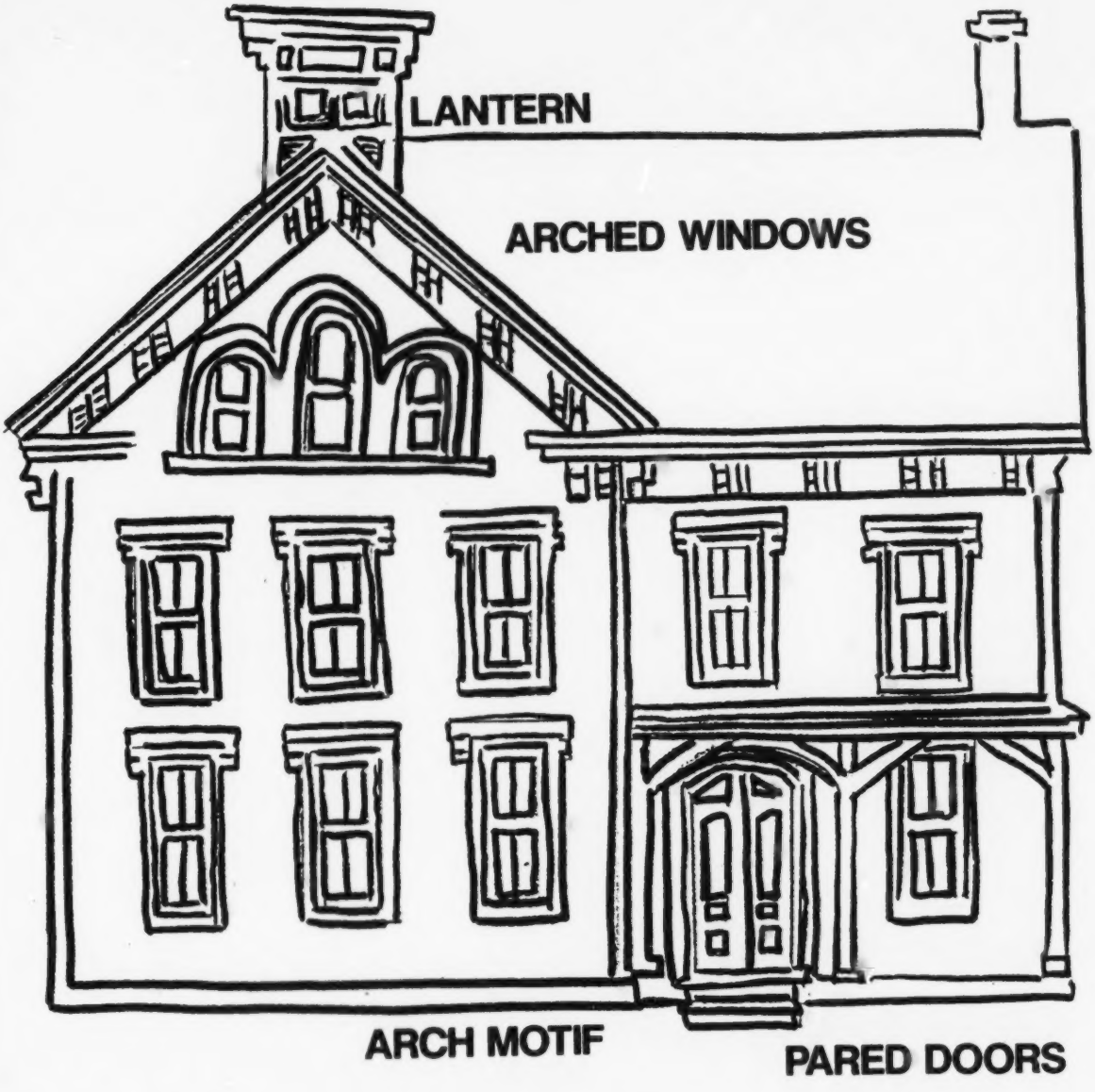
Our Town is a Community with
HOUSING
PARKS
STORES
Bakery
Schools

5

The Planner explained that Planners try to save old buildings that are part of the community's history. Look at the houses on the next few pages. Do you have any houses in your community that look like these?

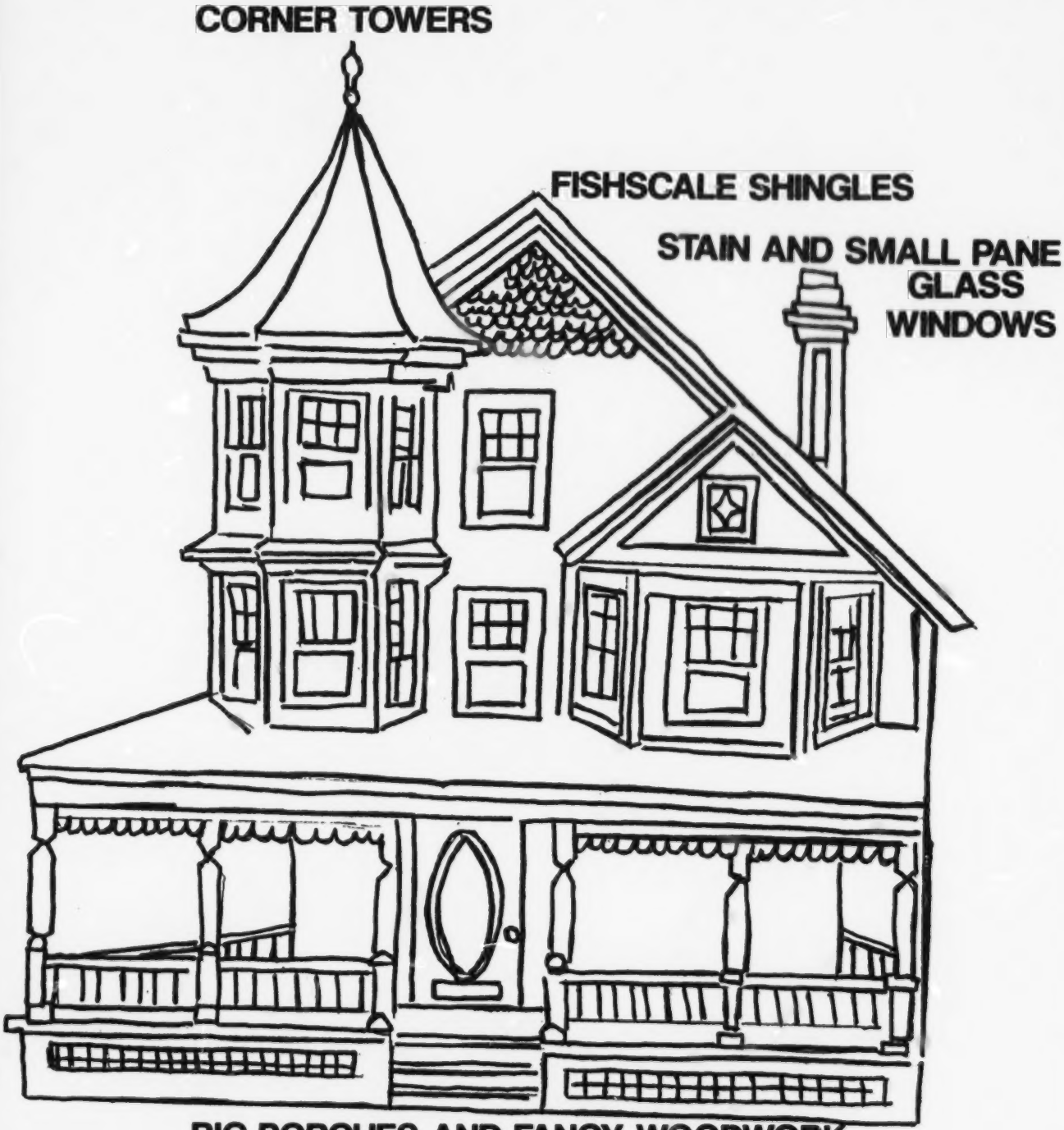
GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE 1830-1860

7



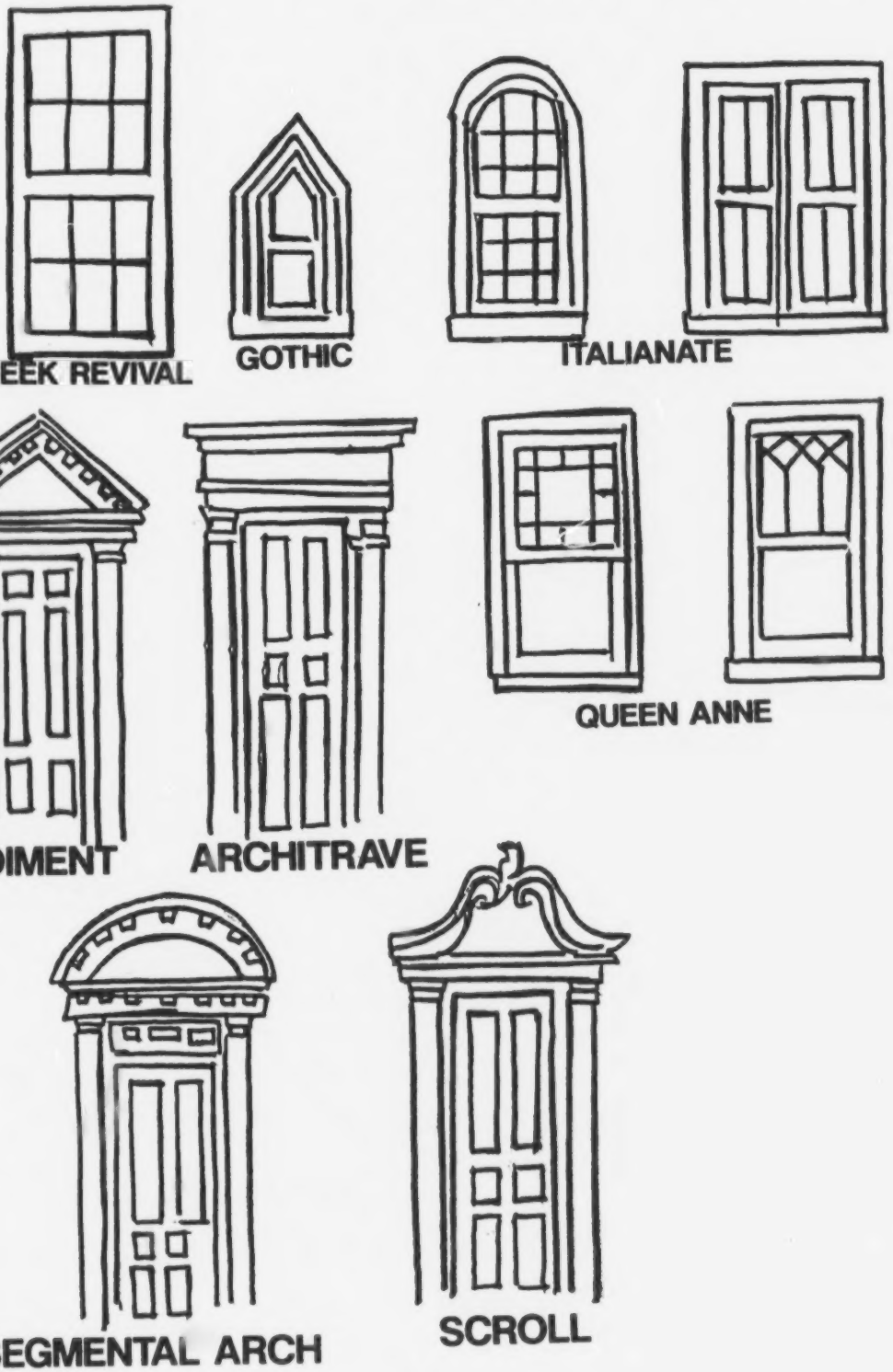
ITALIANATE STYLE 1865-1890

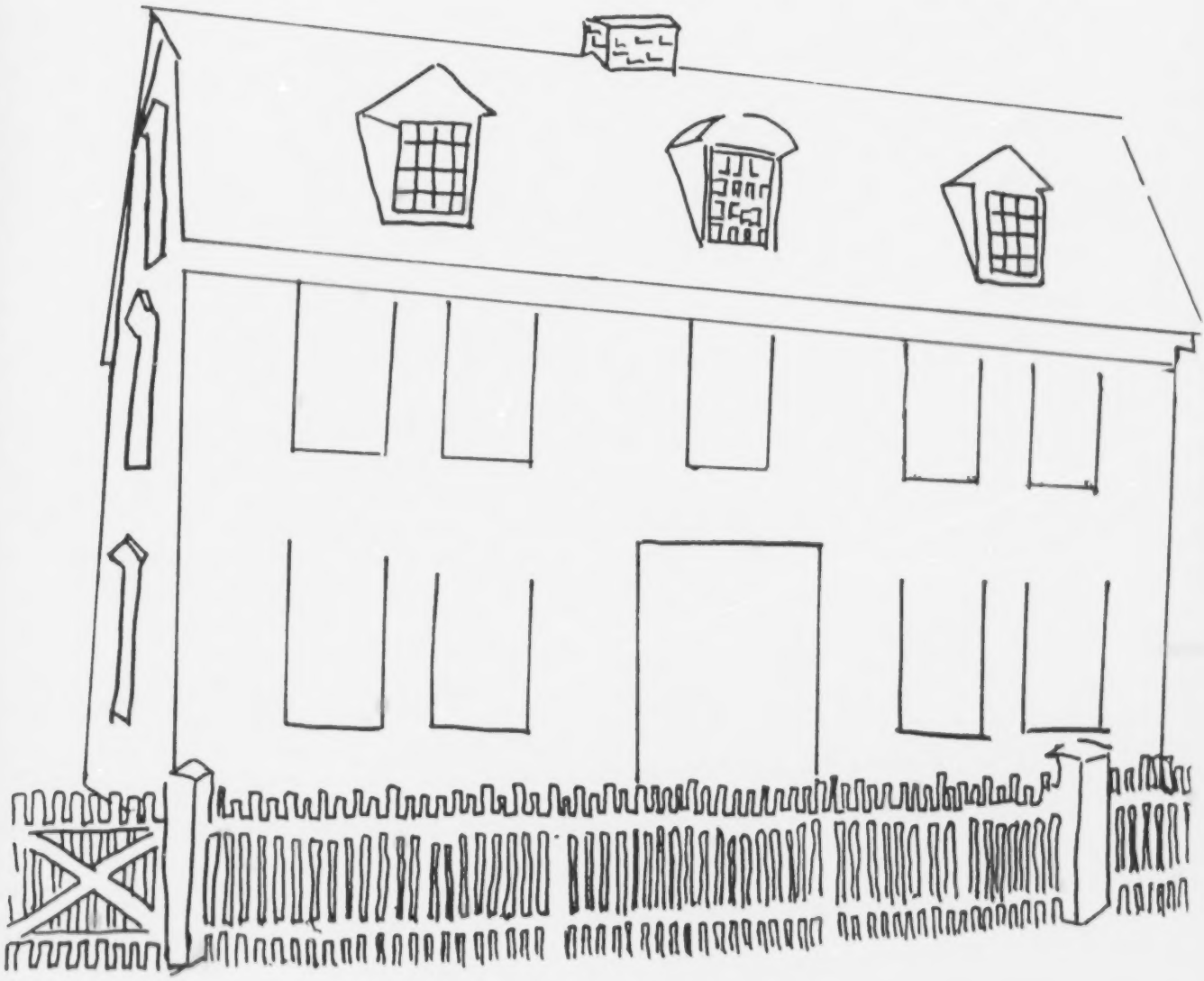
8



QUEEN ANNE STYLE 1875-1890

9


GREEK REVIVAL
GOTHIC
ITALIANATE
QUEEN ANNE
PEDIMENT
ARCHITRAVE
SEGMENTAL ARCH
SCROLL



Look at the window and door styles on the previous page.

Pick your favorite styles and draw them on the house on this page.

Planners know communities need safe efficient roads, but some roads should stay quiet country roads. Planners also try to save historic and scenic country roads like the one on the next page.

13

Planners also know it is important to protect farm land and country areas as depicted in the picture on the next page.

Planners try to protect special areas just because they are beautiful for everyone to see. They call these kinds of areas vistas. Color the vista on the next page.

17

Planners try to protect places for animals, wildlife and special plant life too. How many animals are in the picture on the next page?

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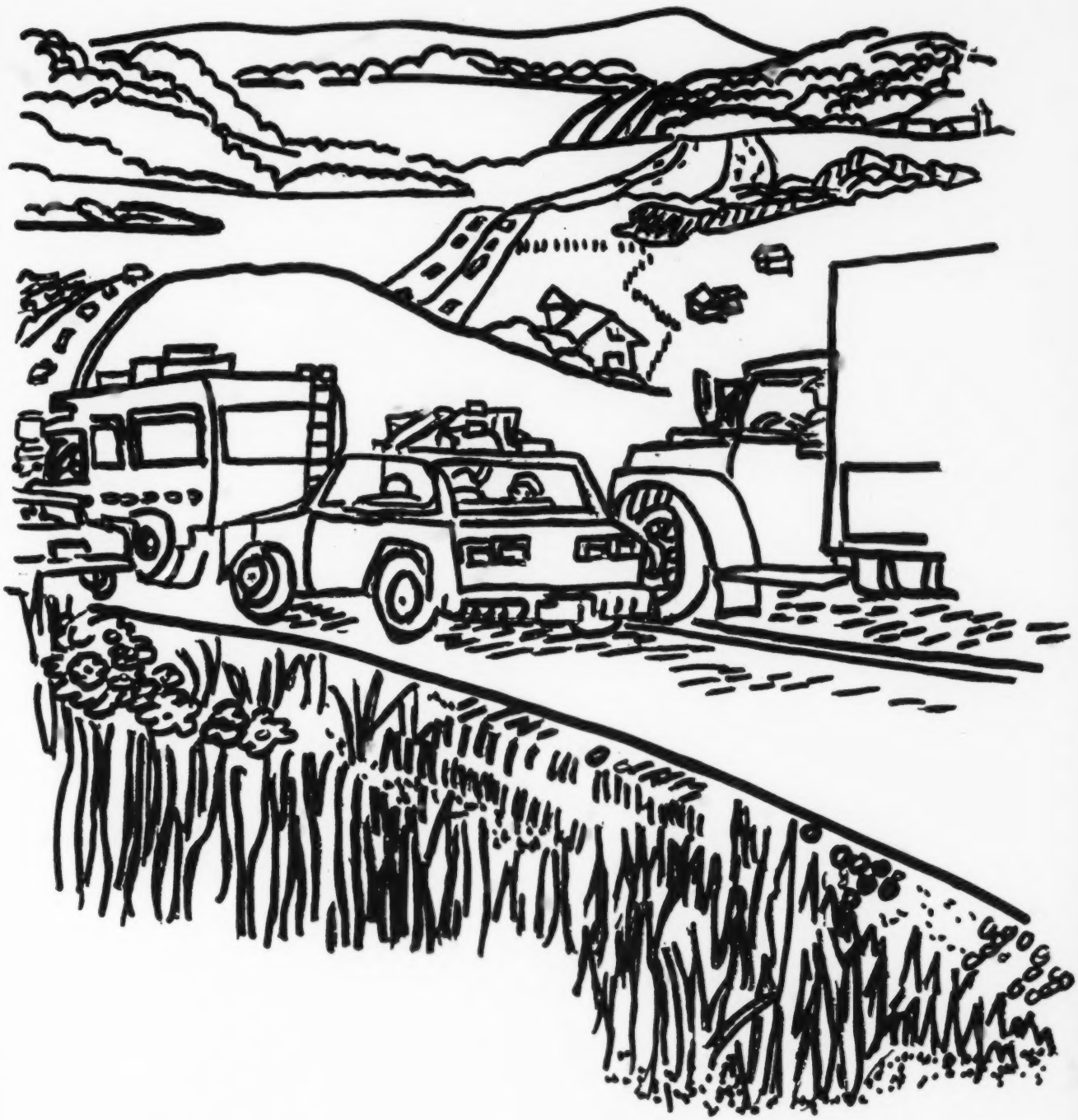
Planners are very concerned about traffic. They try to figure out ways to manage traffic. Just think how much worse the traffic on the next page would look if the farmhouses were office buildings.



21

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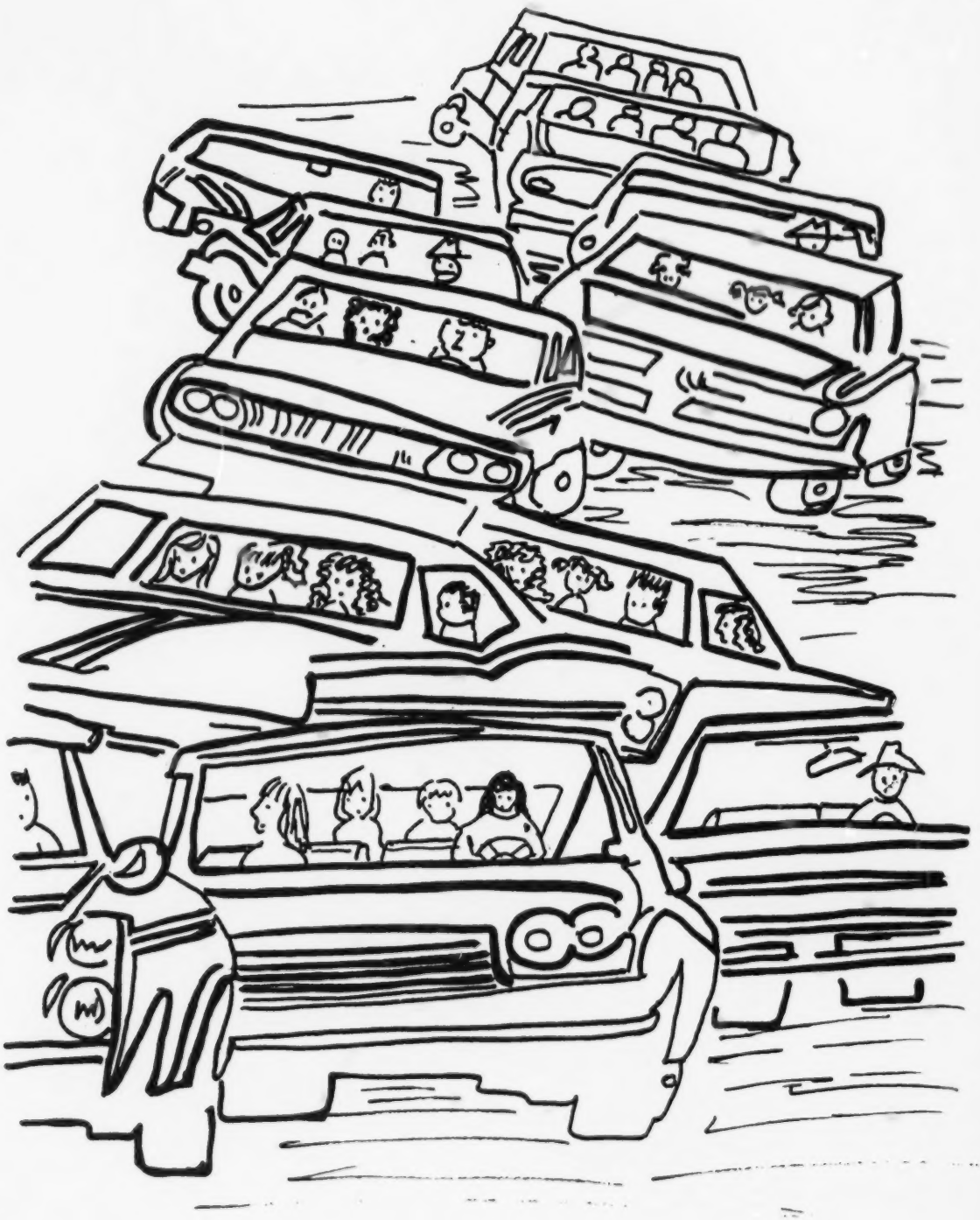
One way of managing traffic is the HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE lane. It is called the HOV lane. In order to drive in the HOV lane there must be at least 3 people in a vehicle. The cars on the opposite page are in an HOV lane. Put an X on the cars which should not be driving in the HOV lane.

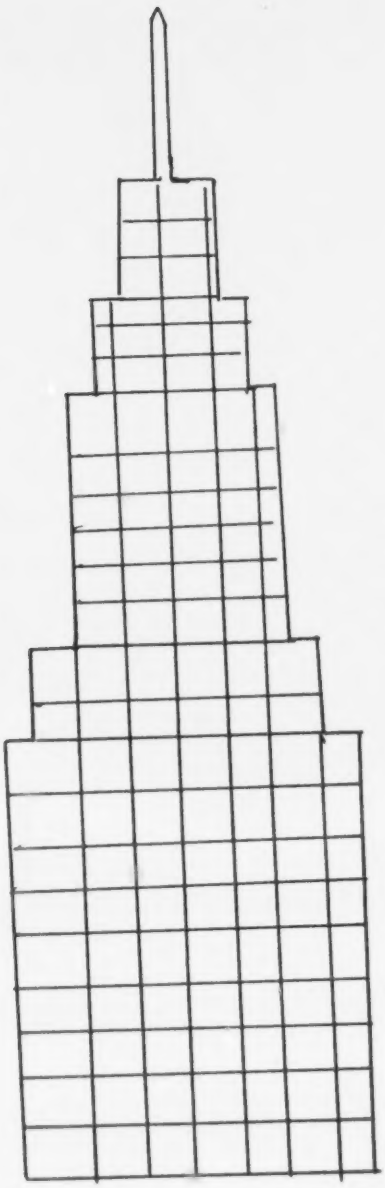


Planners try to provide opportunities for many kinds of transportation including cars, buses, trains, and pedestrian paths like the one on the next page.

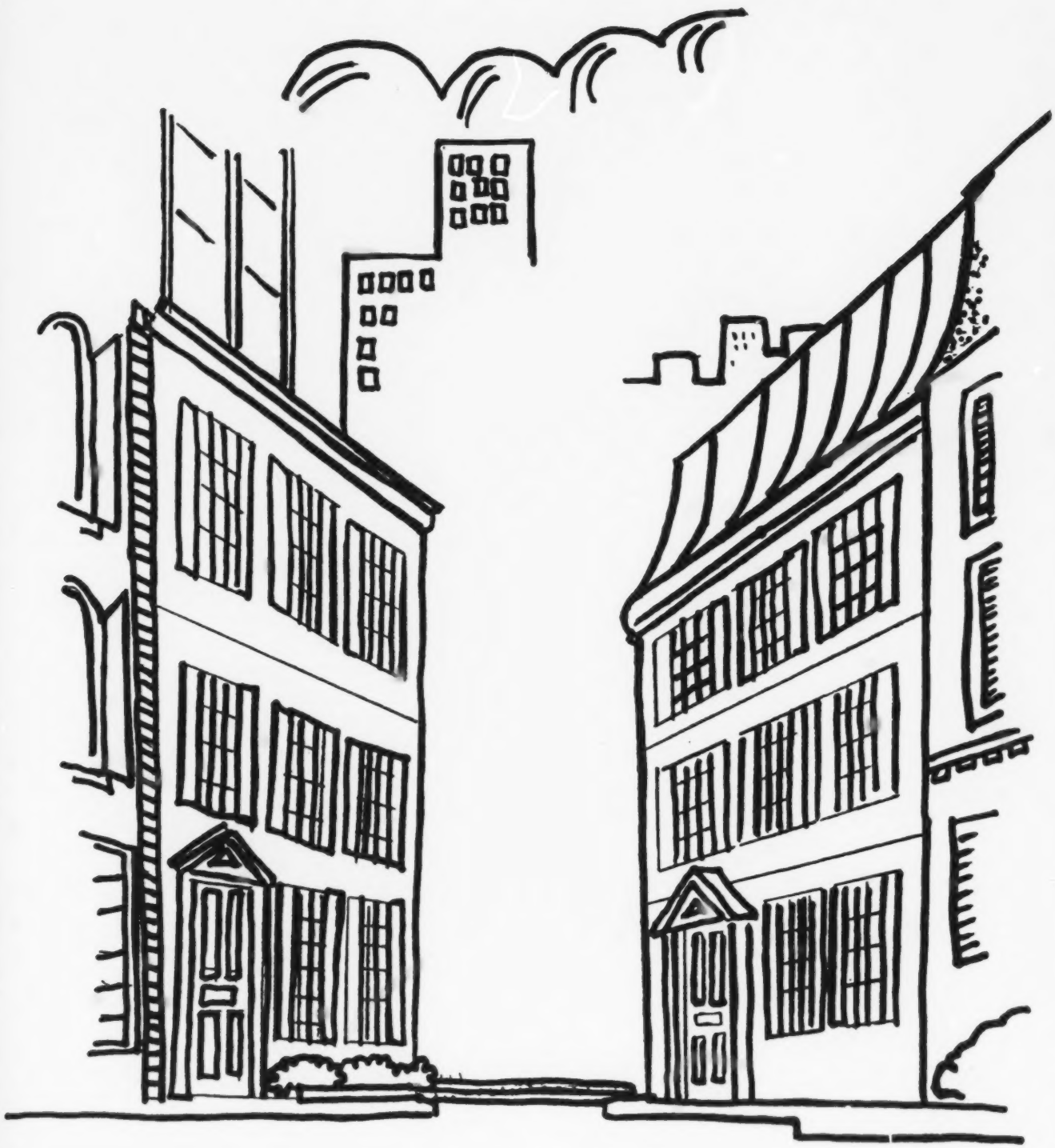
25

Planners also plan parks, playgrounds, and green open spaces.

Planners also care how our communities look. Look at the opposite page. You will see a church, skyscraper, an urban park, and a fountain. Now turn the page and look at the empty space at the end of the street.

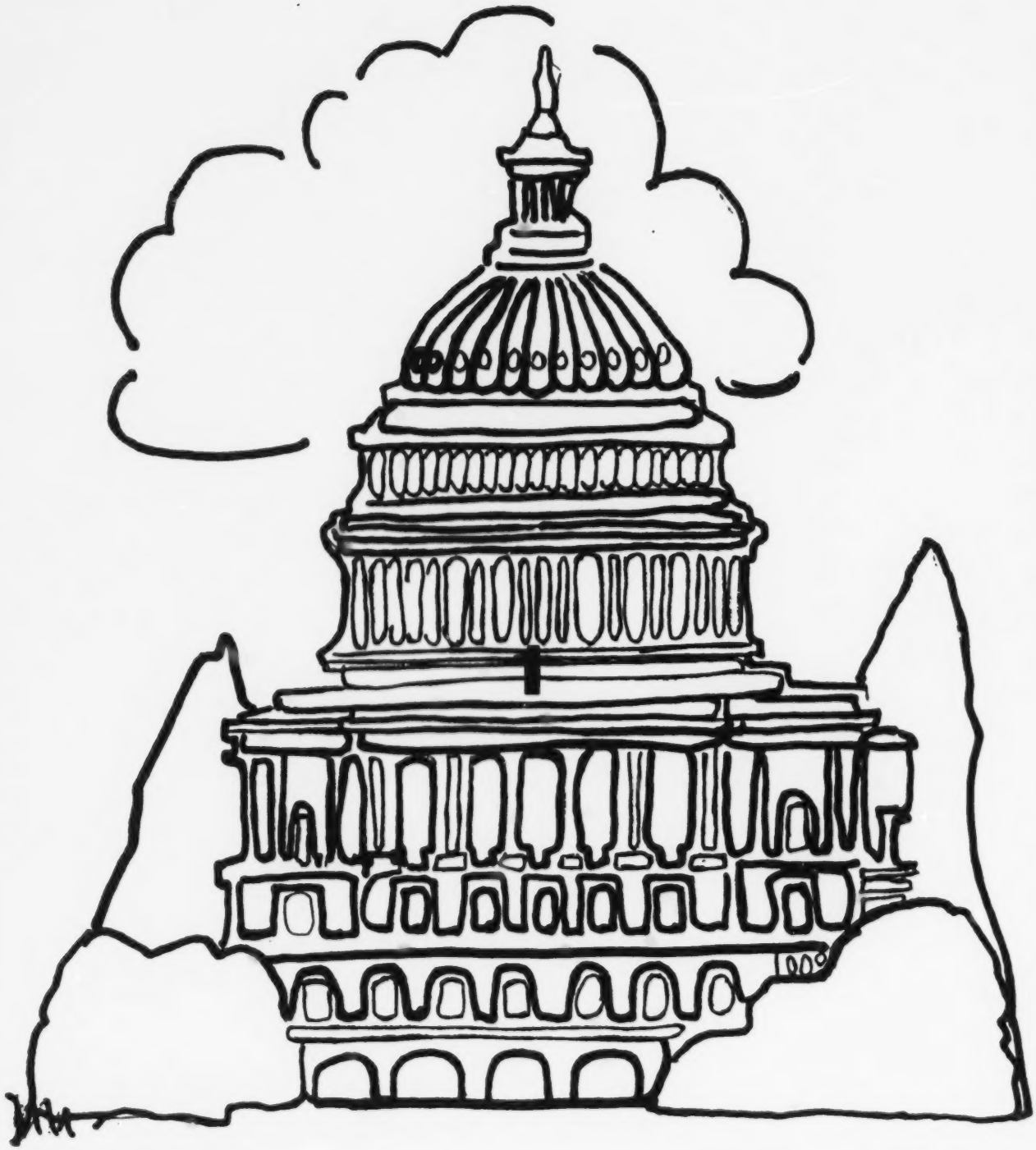


What would you prefer to see in the empty space at the end of this street? Would you prefer to see a church, skyscraper, fountain, urban park, or something else? You can cut out one of the choices from the previous page and paste it onto the picture on the opposite page. Or you can draw whatever you think should go in that space.



31

Planners use maps with many colors. Each color means a certain kind of building is planned for that area. Color the following pages according to the number code to see how Planners color code maps. On the opposite page color the 1 blue. Planners use blue to mean public buildings like the Capitol, churches, schools, post offices, police stations, fire stations, libraries, and court houses.



33

Color the next page according to the following color codes.

Color all 1 red.

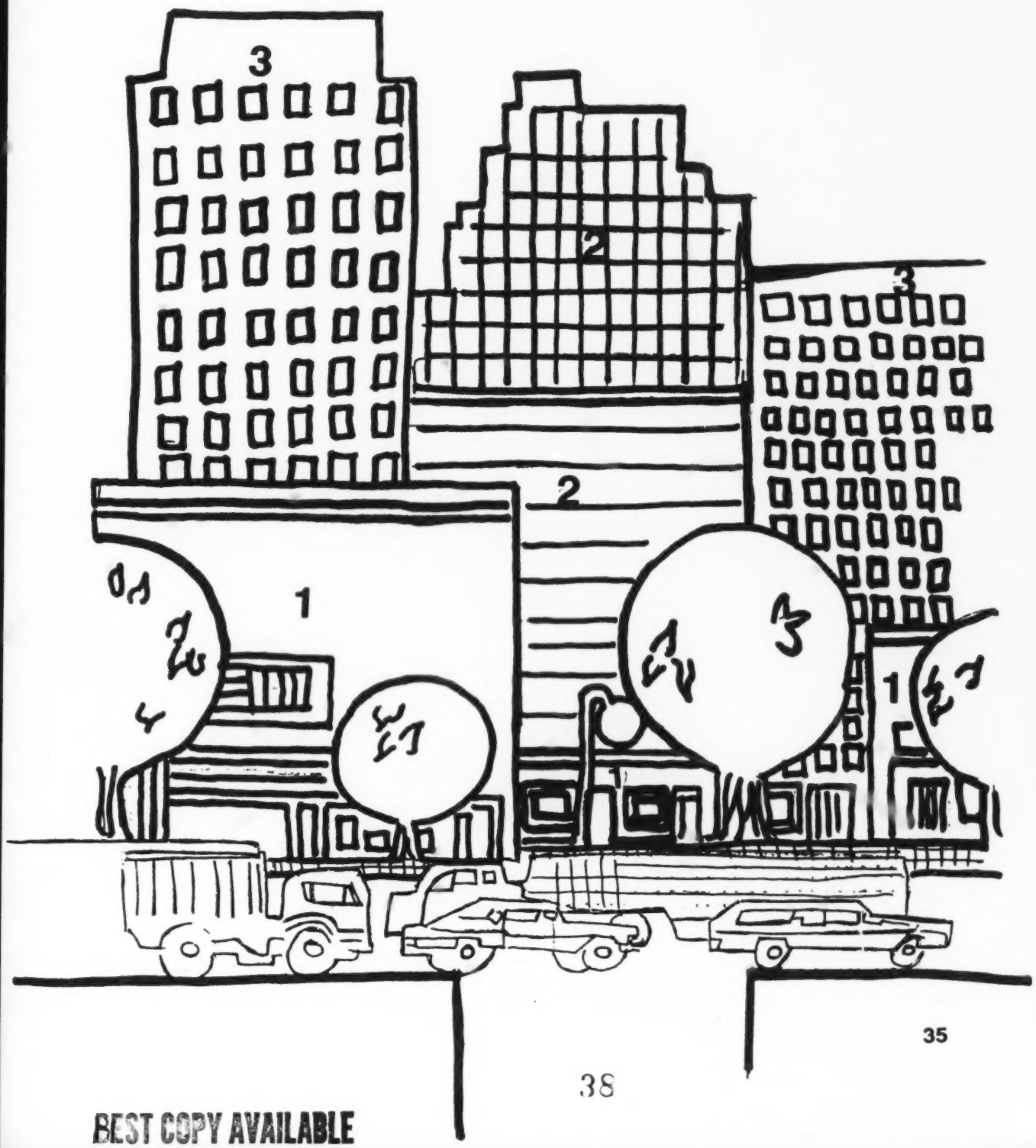
Planners use red for stores.

Color all 2 pink.

Planners use pink for offices.

Color all 3 brown.

Planners use brown for tall apartment buildings.



35

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Color all 1 yellow. Planners use yellow for houses.

37

Color the opposite page using all the colors Planners use on their maps.

Color all 1 red. Planners use red for stores.

Color all 2 pink. Planners use pink for offices.

Color all 3 brown. Planners use brown for tall apartments.

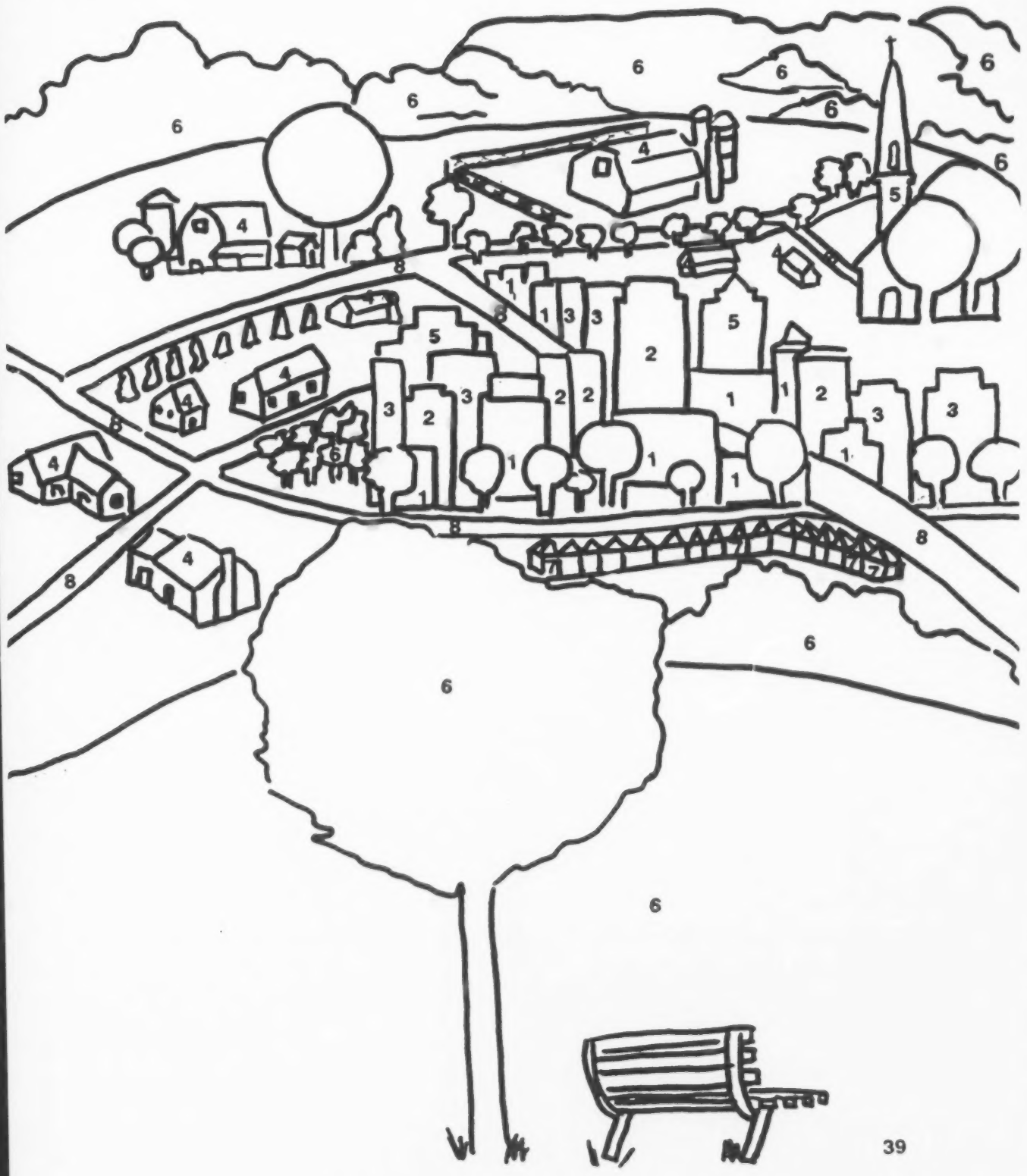
Color all 4 yellow. Planners use yellow for houses and farms.

Color all 5 blue. Planners use blue for public buildings.

Color all 6 green. Planners use green for parks and open space.

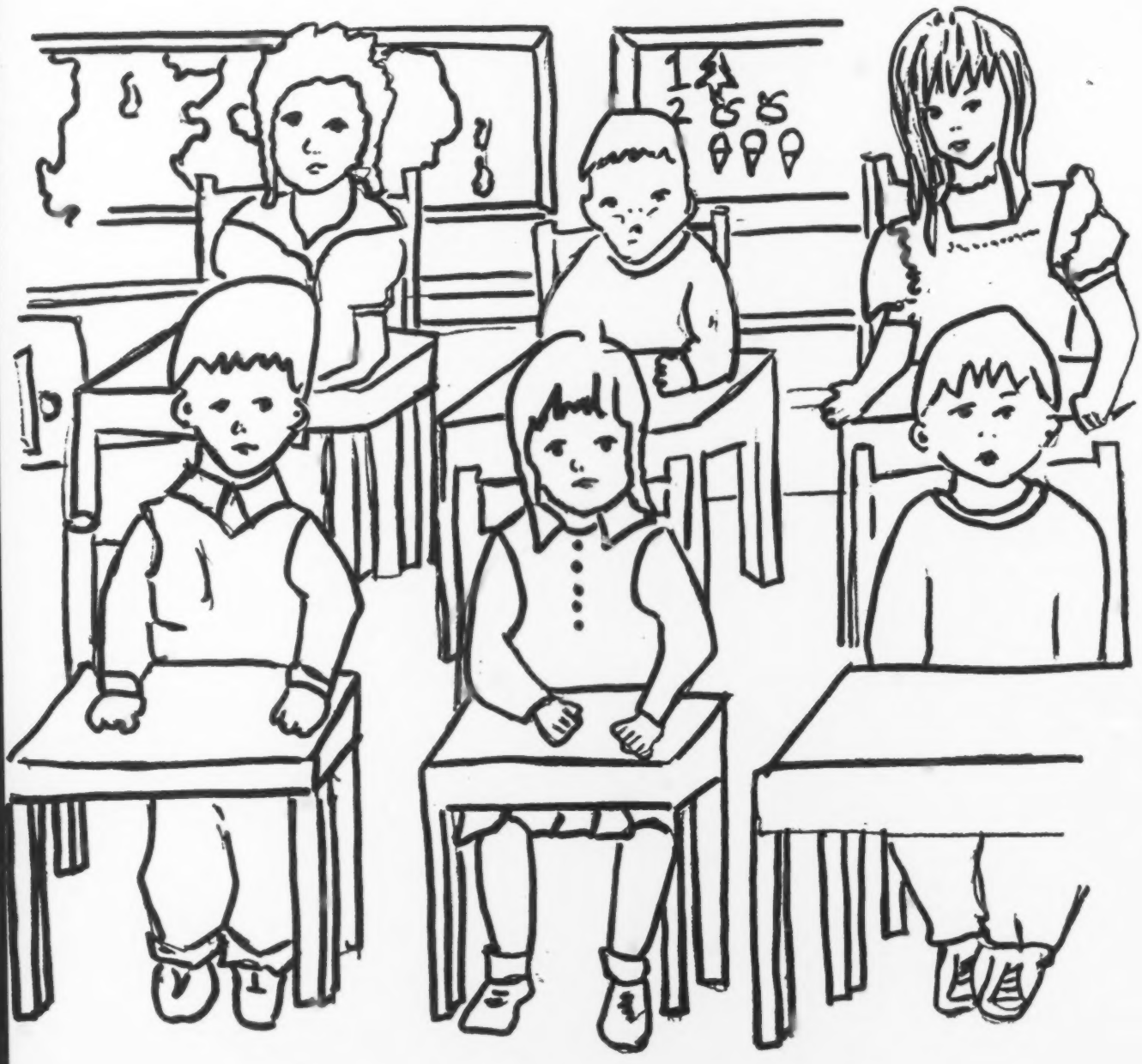
Color all 7 orange. Planners use orange for townhouses.

Color all 8 black. Planners use black for roads.


39

The Planner told the class that planning a community requires help from many people all working together for a common goal. The goal is to make the best community possible for as many people as possible.

Then she asked the class if they wanted to build a model community. They decided their goal was to build a community that had all kinds of transportation, all kinds of housing, a school, a hospital, and parks.



The children made buildings out of milk cartons, boxes and other materials. They helped each other.

Each person worked on a different building for their model. They also made a map of where all their buildings should be placed to meet their goal.

The children assembled their community to look like their map.

Color all "1" yellow.

Color all "2" green.

Color all "3" blue.

Color all "4" orange.

Color all "5" red.

Color all "6" pink.

Color all "7" brown.

Color all "8" black.

47

On the following pages you will find more information and activities related to planning.

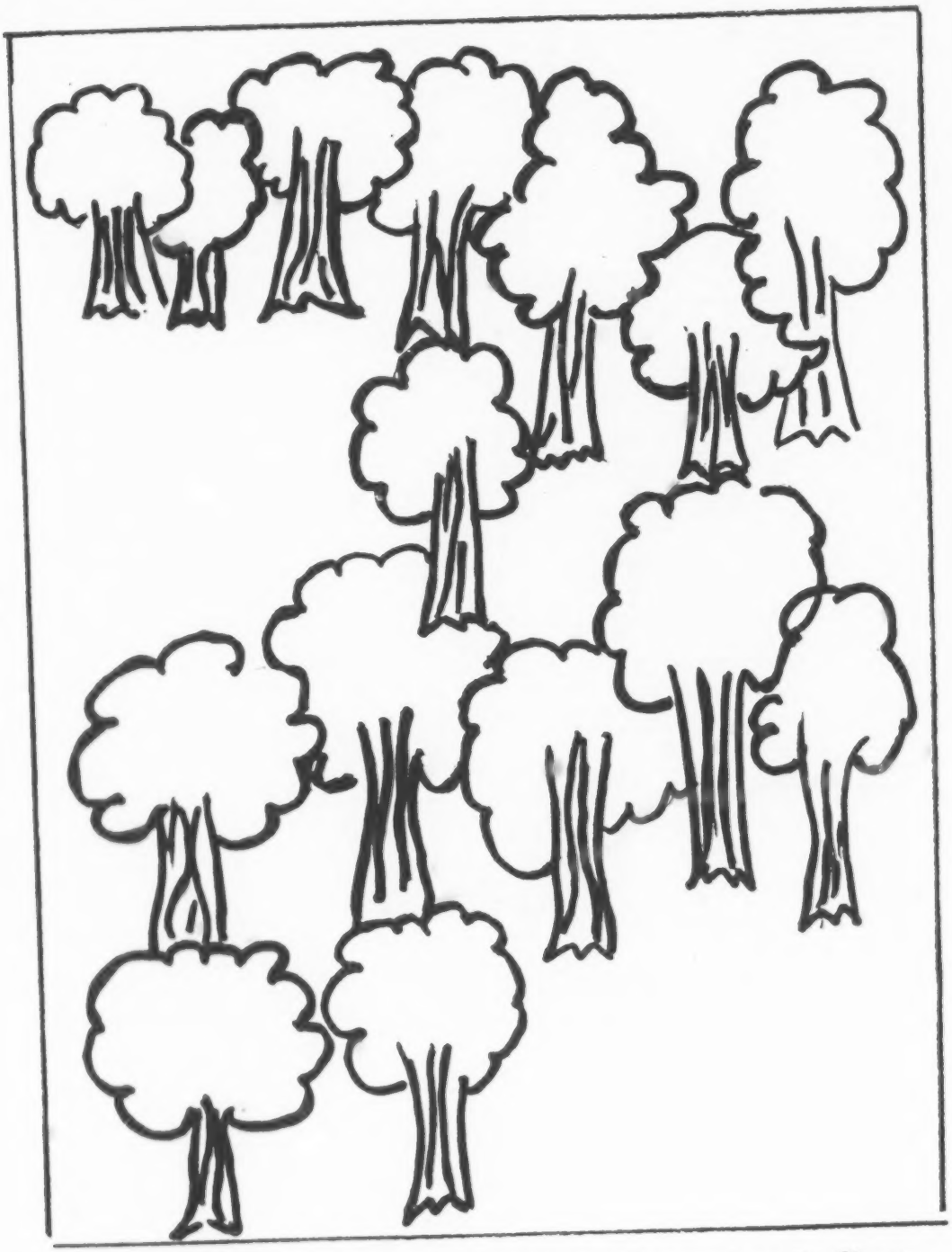
For example, Planners are also concerned with protecting the environment by reducing trash and saving energy. The pictures on the following pages show an old fashioned school room and a modern one. Find things in each picture that reduce trash and save energy.

SAVE
1. Recycle
2. Save
3. reduce
OUR EARTH
energy
trash
GOOD SPELLERS
LERIN O. 4. GABE 6. ALi
2. CHRISTIAN 5. JOSE 7. Danny
3. ANNA
cans
plastic
lunch box

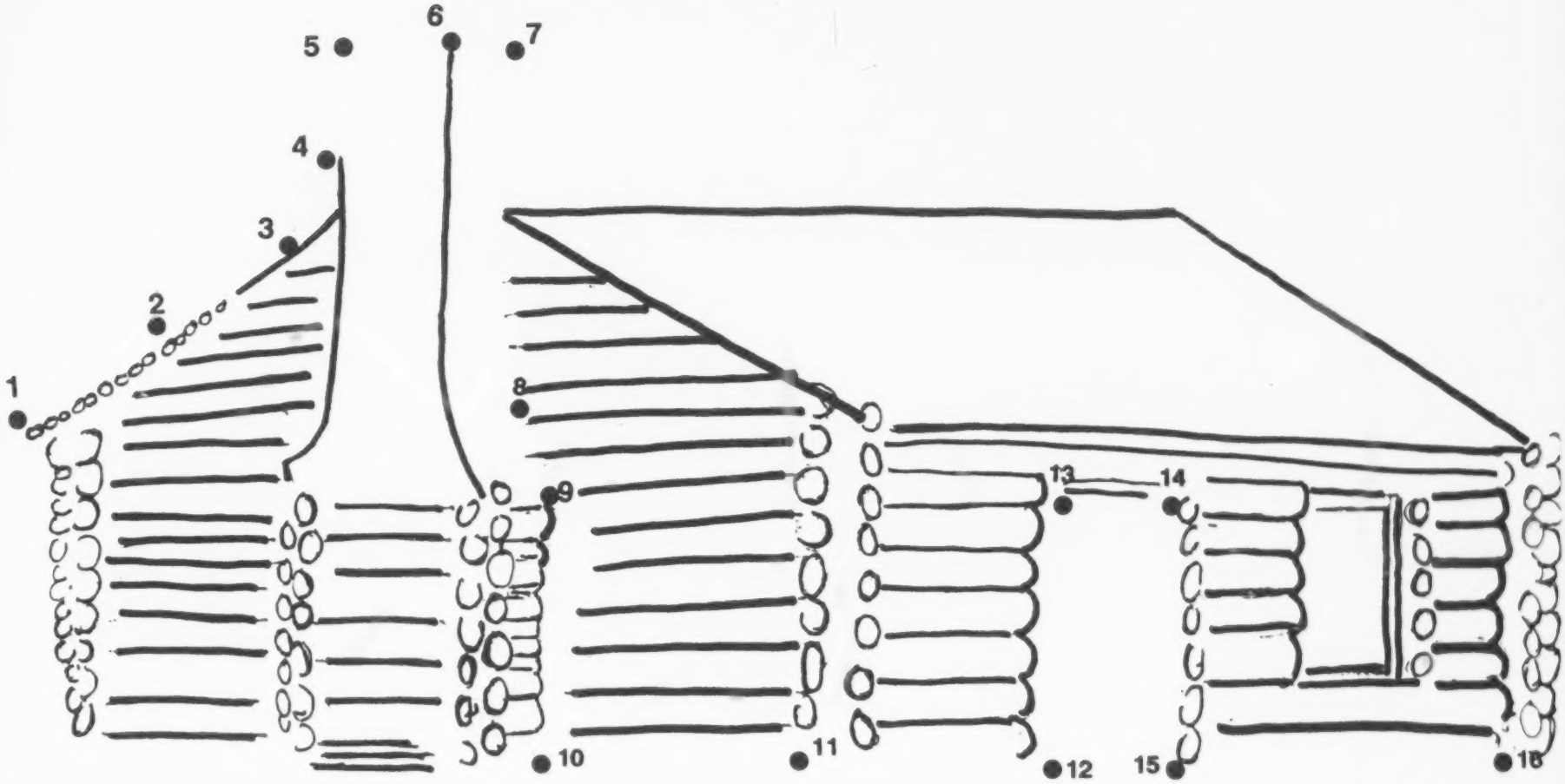
TRASH EXPERIMENT

For one week ask everyone in your class to put their trash from lunch in specific trash cans. Weigh the trash cans before the experiment starts. Then weigh the trash cans with the trash in them after each lunch period. Subtract the weight of the trash cans from the weight of the cans when they are full of trash from lunch. Keep a record of the total amount of trash for the week.

The following week ask everyone in your class to bring lunch in a lunch box, backpack or basket. Ask them to use reuse able containers and utensils to store their food and drinks. They can use plastic sandwich boxes instead of sandwich bags, thermos bottles, cloth napkins, real silverware instead of plastic forks and spoons and so on. Weigh the trash after each lunch period as you did for the first week. Keep a chart of the total weight of the trash during this week. Subtract the second week's total trash from the first week's and see how much the trash is reduced. Multiply that reduction by every classroom in your school, all the schools in your county, in the state. If all of us work to make less trash it makes a BIG difference.



This rectangle represents a piece of land with trees on it. Show where this house should be built so that no trees have to be cut down.



Connect these dots to finish this shelter lived in by early American settlers.

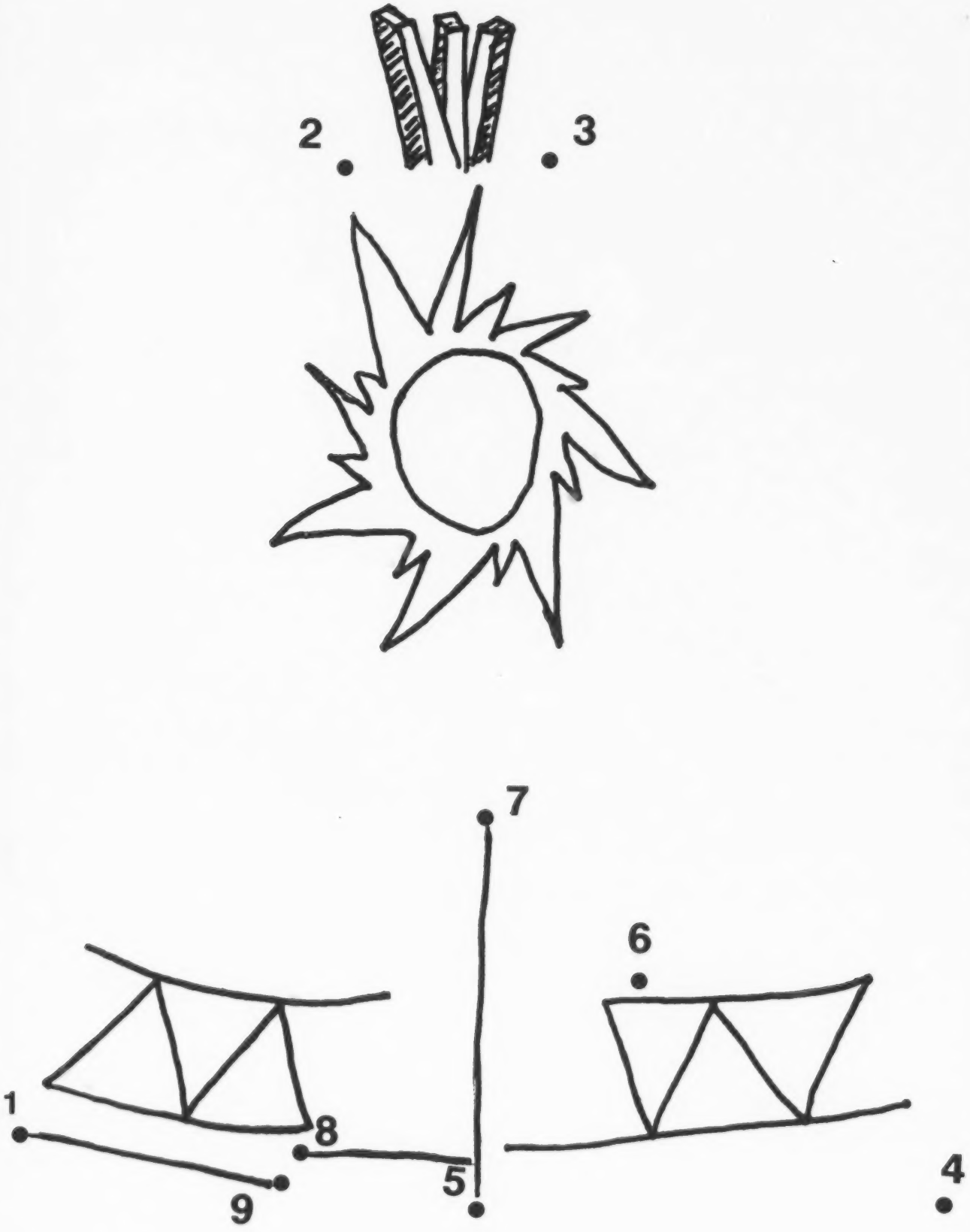
53

Rearrange the letters to correctly spell the kinds of housing shown on this page.

NTOSOUWEH

ATMEPRNTAS

SOEHU



Connect these dots to finish this shelter lived in by our native Americans.

Find three activities in this picture which show concern for the earth.